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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The editor is not responsible for opinions expressed in this department. All communications must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer.

THE NEED FOR WELL-TRAINED MALE NURSES

I

DEAR EDITOR: I can help "Interested" with a suggestion. For several years the Training School of Butler Hospital, Providence, R. I., has been supplying the need that is lamented in your correspondent's letter. Our men nurses spend the second year of their course at a New York or Boston general hospital, returning to Butler Hospital for the third year. After passing examinations they are eligible for state registration in Rhode Island, and orderlies from New York or Boston hospitals frequently enter our school for two years to complete their course and acquire the nursing diploma of Butler Hospital. Such men do well in practice, for there is, and always will be, a demand for their services.

Rhode Island.

G. A. B.

II

DEAR EDITOR: We are a general hospital and we train both young men and young women. Our hospital, the Doctor Bailey Sanatorium of Lincoln, has only eighty-five beds, but it is a school in which very thorough and systematic work is done. Our course covers three years, for six months of that time the nurses are sent to Cook County Hospital, Chicago, for supplementary work. We have two separate buildings, one of forty-five beds for general cases and one of forty beds for mental cases. The male nurses do special and general duty, have diet work and operating room work and have as varied a course as do the women. Instead of lectures on obstetrics and gynaecology, genito-urinary work is substituted in both theory and practice. Our curriculum is outlined from the book drawn up by the nurses of the State Board of Nebraska. . . . Our nurses are always registered in their own state and not infrequently apply for registration in other states to which they may go.

As for the future of a male nurse, I am firmly convinced from the way our graduates are kept busy that there is a growing demand. Few of them stay in Nebraska. A great many have gone west, a number to Chicago and others have taken responsible positions elsewhere. Some of the more ambitious ones make the training a stepping stone to something better. Several have studied medicine and this fall three. . . . entered dental college. I have often wished we could train our male nurses for some definite work, that hospitals and doctors would write and ask us to select a capable student and train him along a definite line, It is a pleasure to have them do the work which generally falls to orderlies, who are either self-taught or untaught. I enjoy teaching them and feel they are as a class a valuable addition to our profession.

Nebraska.

I. M. B.